

## Communities of Opportunity Initiative

Community Progress Report

April 1, 2010 – June 31, 2010

Due: Thursday, July 15, 2010

**Name of Community:** THOMAS COUNTY  
**Date:** July 14, 2010

**Local Champion:** Kathy Megahee, Family Connection Director

Co-Op Strategies	List Measures of Success, (Or Barriers If Applicable)	Action Items Completed for Each Strategy	Cost Estimate	Provide a Brief Description of Issues and Action Items to be Addressed Next Quarter
Increase Literacy within the County	<p>The Annual Community Literacy Fair was a success with over 500 in attendance.</p> <p>We did not have as many vendors as anticipated due to budget cuts and staffing issues. Overall, children and adults enjoyed the event.</p> <p>Newspaper articles reported literacy statistics, television coverage of literacy issues.</p>	Literacy Fair held on April 29 at the Public Library. 20 Resource vendors participated; Partners included Public Library, Friends of the Library, SWGA Technical College, Archbold Auxiliary, Archbold Hospital, Vashti, CNS, City/County Schools, Bishop Hall, DOL, AKA Sorority, Family Connection, Wal Mart, Thomasville Community Resource Center, City Fire Dept., City Police Dept., Thomas County Humane Society, Thomasville Flower Shop, Thomasville Warriors, and Thomasville Times Enterprise	<p>\$1,102 Books and Banners (CO-OP funds)</p> <p>Advertising \$650 (in kind donation)</p>	Begin planning process for next year's event.
	<p>Currently 1,419 children (birth to age 5) are registered and receiving a free book once a month. This project encourages reading to children and children prepared for kindergarten.</p> <p>Resource Fair scheduled at Southwest GA Technical College.</p> <p>Barrier – Lack of job availability</p>	The CLCP Committee lifted a suspension of Ferst books. Children, Parents and Grandparents look forward to books arriving in the mail.	\$4,000 X 3 months = \$12,000 (in kind donation Archbold Auxiliary)	<p>Continue to promote literacy awareness.</p> <p>Collaborate with Archbold Auxiliary to register newborns with the Ferst Foundation. Share available educational resources with teen moms.</p> <p>Encourage parents to read to children.</p> <p>Ensure that vulnerable families</p>

				<p>in Thomas County have access to educational and support services promoting high school completion or its equivalent to improve the literacy rate and workforce development.</p> <p>Promote Back to School Blitz scheduled on July 31. This project helps students and parents prepare for a successful school year.</p> <p>DOL will host a Job Resource Fair in August.</p> <p>CLCP Committee members are making plans for The Dictionary Project. The project promotes high school graduation/completion. All third grade students receive a free dictionary.</p> <p>Partner with Archbold Hospital - Community Education Task Force educating community of available health resources and health fairs.</p>
	Recruit Volunteer Mentors	During the 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter, The NAACP continued to collaborate with the Thomasville Community Resource Center to assist City/County students with after school tutoring prior to graduation testing.	N/A	Review report from graduation coaches and TCRC.
	Increase the number of GED recipients Barrier – GED numbers will be lower due to Federal restriction requiring 60 hours of mandatory classroom hours per student.	37 individuals received GED attainment	5 X \$95 = \$495 (CO-OP Funds)	Ensure students have access to support services.
Expose Community to	Promote Developmental Assets - positive factors within young people, families,	Family Connection is scheduled to begin a 52 week series of Developmental Assets	N/A this quarter	This information will be provided to businesses, schools,

Life Skills	communities, schools, and other settings. Research has found positive assets are important in promoting the healthy development of young people.	<i>Instant Assets: 52 Short and Simple E-Mails for Sharing the Asset Message</i>		faith based community and collaborative partners. Information used in newsletters, bulletins, parent connect, etc.
	Ensure graduation coaches refer H/S dropouts to GED program, Promote Lunch, Learn program, and coordinate existing community programs.	<p>Southwest GA Technical College sponsored two sessions of Lunch and Learn this quarter. Twenty-five persons attended "You Said What?!" a discussion of what to say and what not to say during a job interview.</p> <p>Thirty-One students attended the "Dress to Impress" luncheon and learned appropriate dress for job interviews and work.</p> <p>In May and June, 60 persons attended Family Connection collaborative meetings.</p>	N/A	A lunch and learn titled Student 2 Student "How we get it done" is scheduled on July 27th. This lunch and learn will include a student panel presenting study skills and what they do to excel in their classes.